

The Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. has been organizing what has become known as The Bundy Bush Poetry Muster since 1994. With the exception of 2009, when we didn't hold this event, the Bundy Bush Poetry Muster attracted poets from all over Australia to travel to Bundy to compete for the overall champion poet. As well as the competitions held over 2 ½ days, where a hand-crafted 1 litre keg was hotly contested, there have been very successful and entertaining concerts held on both the Friday and Saturday evenings. In conjunction with the Muster each year, the Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. also held a written competition known as, The Bush Lantern Award for Bush Verse, which attracted a chrome plated kerosene lantern mounted on a wooden base. However after discussions at our club meeting on Saturday, November 12th, a decision was made not to run the Muster in July 2017 but to re-assess the situation in October 2017 for July 2018. The cancellation of a Bundy Bush Poetry Muster in 2017 unfortunately was because of the following reasons:-

- (a) I made the very difficult decision not to be the co-ordinator because of personal and family reasons, and
- (b) we are a small group and our members are getting older. We do not have anyone who wishes to 'put their hand up' to take on the role of co-ordinator for this event in the foreseeable future.

Therefore, on behalf of the Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc., I would like to take this opportunity to thank all poets, judges and supporters of bush poetry most sincerely for coming to Bundy in July, whether it has been only once or for many years, to participate in our festival. We wouldn't have had the following, or the name, which made our festival very highly regarded throughout Australia if it wasn't for folk like yourself/selves making the journey to Bundy to enjoy poetry and friendship.

As you can well imagine this has caused me a great deal of anguish and guilt as well as shedding a lot of tears but in the end it all came down to a number of very personal and family reasons.

John & I joined the ABPA in July 1997 and shortly after became members of our local club, the Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. In 2000 we had support roles in running the Musters but since then have been the co-ordinators, a position that has been very dear to our hearts. Letting go of this role is very much like children leaving home.

Your support of our festival has been very much appreciated not only by John & myself but all the members of the Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc.

The Bundaberg Poets' Society Inc. is still very much in existence with our club meetings held on the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Rum City Silver Band Hall, Targo Street, Bundaberg. John & I are very much involved with our local club – just stepping down from the annual Muster. We look forward to catching up with you at some poetry festival in Australia or if you are in Bundy we will look forward to seeing you then.

Cheers

Sandy

SANDY LEES
Secretary

FOOTNOTE: Since sending out emails to individual poets and our Muster supporters we would like to thank you for your very kind words in response to our announcement. We have been very humbled by your emails and phone calls but take heart in the fact that we have made lifetime friends. We hope that if you are ever in Bundy or just passing through and you either need a bed for the night or would just like to call in for a chat and a cuppa that you remember our door is always open.